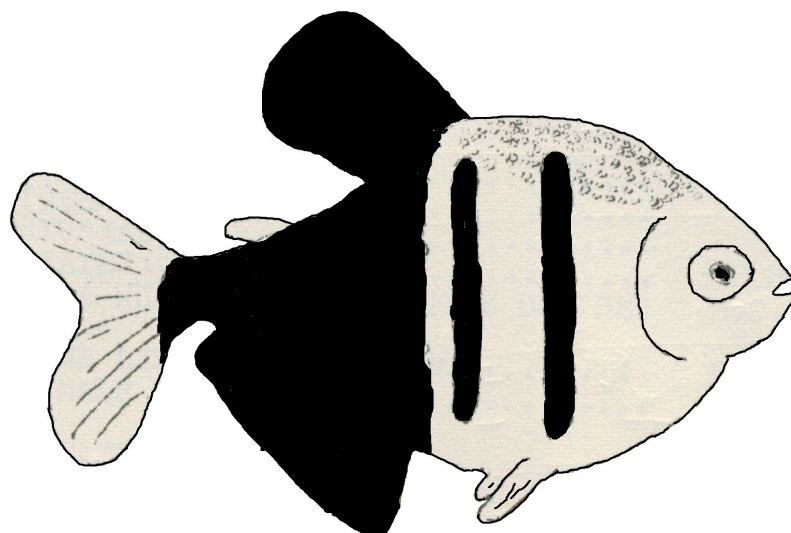


SOUTHEND



AQUARISTS

THE SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

(founded 1935 or before)

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

1967

THE SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY.
(founded 1938)

QUARTERLY JOURNAL
Number 14, January 1967

The Society meets at 8.00 pm on the first and third Tuesday in each month at:-

the liberal hall,
clarence road,
southend-on-sea.

CONTENTS.

SUBJECT	AUTHOR	PAGE
OFFICERS FOR 1967.....		2
NOTICES.....		2
EDITORIAL.....		4
AQUARIST'S GOOSE	Pier Head.....	4
MONSTER SIGHTED.....	Anon.....	5
A COME BACK FOR OLD FATHER THAMES.....	P.F.Capon.....	5
ICHTHYOLOGICA IN TROUBLE ?.....		5
SOCIAL LIFE OF FISHES.....	D.W.Roberts F.Z.S.....	6
AN A.B.C. OF FISHKEEPING.....	reported by P.F.Capon.....	8
AROUND THE SHOWS.....	P.F.Capon.....	9
A CAUTIONARY TALE.....	P.F.Capon.....	11
KILLERS WITH A DIFFERENCE.....	D.W.Roberts F.Z.S.....	12
TILAPIA AND CHIPS.....	P.F.Capon.....	13
ALGAE FOR WATER PURIFICATION.....	P.F.Capon.....	13
MURDER MOST FOUL.....	P.F.Capon.....	13
THAT LETTER.....		14
SOME IDEAS ON A BEST FISHKEEPER OF THE YEAR TROPHY.....	P.F.Capon.....	14
CLUB NEWS.....		16
CUP WINNERS.....		18
COMING EVENTS.....		19
INTER-CLUB MEETINGS.....		19
A NEW MEETING PLACE.....		19

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NOTICES.

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EDITORIAL

What about a show this year ? We haven't had a show since 1965 so I think it is about time that we held one.

I would suggest a show in the form of an invitation natch with, say , Basildon, Thurrock, and Witham as we had in 1965.

A show is the best advertisement a club can have and provided stewards are available to answer the publics questions new members can be obtained. Even if we only succeed in infecting a few people with "fishitis" the show will have been worth-while.

Any way a show is fun all those leaky tanks etc.

In passing what do you think of this year program it is so very much the same as last year. Please members make your requests for entertainment known to the committtee. If you have any ideas for items let us know it's YOUR club not the committees !

AQUARIST'S GOOSE.

by Pier Head.

Little Miss Muffet sat by her tank,
Watching her fry at play,
When along came sone.Hydra
Also a Water-Tiger,
And gobbled her babies away,

MONSTER FISH SIGHTED.

by S.L.A.D.A.S. foreign correspondant

A French family sailing around the world in a yacht have reported seeing a monster fish off the Great Barrier Reef. To back up their story they have a photo' of the creature.

The fish was seventy feet long, with a head five feet thick» and two pale green eyes were visible.

The monster has been identified as a giant eel of the genus Synbrachidae genus, a primitive animal which usually inhabits very deep water. It is assumed that the creature surfaced as a result of injuries sustained during a typhoon.

Creatures such as this probably gave rise to the tales of sea monsterst ancient mariners used to be fond of telling

Could one or a group of these creatures be resident in Loch Ness ?

COME BACK FOR OLD FATHER THAMES.

By P.F..Capon.

Old Father Thames is in better shape than he has been in for thirty or more years or more. work began on cleaning up the river in 1964 and this autumn fish began to return to what had been little more than an open sewer.

Roach, bream and eel have been caught on the filter screens of Fulham power station. The power station uses Thames water for cooling purposes and between 20 and 30 pounds of fish have been trapped on the filter screens at each tide. The fish are returned to the river.

ICHTHYOLOGICA IN TROUBLE ?

You editor subscribes to Ichthyologica through their British agents. Initially the magazine was a monthly, then last May it changed to being Quarterly through lack of articles. Since the fMay issue

which arrived late no issues have been received. Is the magazine dead or what ?

-6-

SOCIAL LIFE OF FISH

by D.W.Roberts F.Z.S.

Just think of the unresistable impulse of certain fish to herd themselves into shoals or schools.

It used to be thought, by analogy with birds, that fish moved in shoals in the cause of migration. Shoals of fish are not in any sense migrating movements. It has been established that those fish that move in shoals come together in a more or less automatic fashion, without this indicating the slightest urge to migrate or go anywhere in particular. The fish merely follow a gregarious impulse to mass.

For instance, as soon as a sardine sees another, it draws near it and will not leave it. If these two sardines swimming side by side, see a bigger group, they join it. With gradual additions the shoal takes shape and will not break up again, even when the fishermen's nets scoop up whole chunks methodically. In fact it is not migrating birds that fishes should be compared with, but sheep.

You might say what else can this be but a mass migration, when a multitude of fishes, whose members all turn in the same direction, and begin to move in one huge gathering. Far from it, for a mass migration goes somewhere and its occurrence is strictly tied to a particular season.

In fact the shoals go nowhere.

It is true that their appearance in certain areas of the sea is not unconnected entirely with the season, as fishermen well know, but the movement is neither global or methodical.

In a single stretch of water you can find in a few days or even hours, shoals moving in totally different directions.

It has been noted that shoals tend to break up at night. Furthermore, although a shoal moves in one mass this does not signify that the fishes which form it swim parallel to each other, retaining the same relative positions inside the shoal.

The mass is constantly being stirred and mixed by an internal movement in which the fishes pass from the periphery to the centre, and vice versa.

Why does this happen ?

Because the individual fishes which find themselves on the edge of the shoal, suffer a form of dizziness when they see with one eye the immense mass of their fellows and with the other nothing but a desert of green water.

They never stop, therefore trying to get to the heart of the mass thus driving the fish in the centre out towards the edge of the shoal.

The Cichlidae are fresh-water fish akin to the perch. They are known to reach over three feet in length and are frequently mentioned as examples of unusual methods of reproduction.

In several species the female takes her eggs into her mouth as soon as they have been fertilized. She keeps them in her mouth until they hatch out - and sometimes even afterwards, for when the tiny fry are disturbed, they take shelter again in their mother's mouth,

Cichlids in tropical waters have a herd reflex which causes them to have at the back of the eye a picture of a fish of the same species - an image of a specific size - and that each fish remains at a constant distance from its neighbour.

This distance tends in fact to be an exact proportion of the length of the other fish.

If a neighbour is eight inches long it will try to keep itself at a distance twice as great as if it were only four inches long.

But since its opposite number has the same reflex response, it is seen that when two fish eight and four inches long respectively, find themselves side by side, the bigger one always tries to move nearer the smaller one, which in turn will try to move further away from the bigger one.

The result is to grade all the fishes in a shoal according to size, the little ones side by side, and the bigger ones likewise.

Cichlids, obviously have a great feeling for order and uniformity - and nature has enhanced this pattern by endowing them with great beauty and variety of colouring.

AN A.B.C. Of FISHKEEPING .

reported by P.F.Capon.

A continuation of the talk given by Mr Creed at the Inter-club meeting at Basildon.

P is for plants. Cichlids often attack them, but if giant Sagittaria or Amazon Swords are planted and well rooted the cichlids will give up if they are not able to up-root then in a short time.

When planting vallis nip of the tops of the leaves at about six to eight inches from the crown and remove any brown roots. Plant with the crown level with the gravel.

Plants require food as much as fish and it is possible to put fertilizers into the sub-soil. I always use Thames River ballast as sub-soil, and sterilize it before use as it is not perfectly clean. Peat is good under the gravel but ordinary earth tends to form pockets of gas.

You cannot use artificial fertilizers in the aquarium. I would advise well rotted cow manure well rotted oowdered and mixed with the sub-soil.
Do not use stable manure.

Rabbit droppings can be used but do not use those from wild rabbits or a green slime will appear on the aquarium glass. Pellets from tame rabbits are "as safe as houses".

Put the pellets amongst the roots of the plants.

(I would not put rabbit pellets in my tanks, the natural mulm. is the best fertilizer in my oppinion, with any manure you run the risk of fouling your tank, editor)

Rabbit pellets are said to be a good food for mollies.

Q is for quarantine.

R is for rock work. It adds to the picture but it does take up tank space.

S is for showing. As for judging shows that is something that I would rather forgot; I have been at

it for about forty years.

-9-

Most fish do not show off to perfection in little tanks as they are not used to them. Get them used to the net by netting them but not taking them out of the water and when they are not worried by the net put them into a small show tank for a few hours a day a week or so before the show..

A metronome with a piece of paper on the arm is a good way to get fishes used to our big leering faces,

T is for temperature. It is quite safe to have a variation of ten degrees overnight.

Thermostats are usually set for a range of two degrees but my old method of heating with paraffin gives more variation.

Do not be a slave to temperature if you want hardy fish.

W is for water. I always use it straight from the tap and always add one level tea spoonful of Epsom Salts to the gallon because water dissolves salts from the soil.

(I get away with tap water but many aquarists do come to grief.. Epsom Salts harden the water and are far from natural. Try taking your tea with water containing Epsom Salts and see what effect it has on you ! Mir Creed says he bates chemicals then he puts them in by the spoonful I)
(Ed).

Z is for zoo. It pays all aquarists to visit these. They do not put up the tanks in a way we would like to see but sometimes they have varieties that are new.

In a Zoo aquarium it is the big fish that make the show.

AROUND THE SHOWS

by P.F.Capon.

Brian Dunn has done it again I

He won the First prize for Egg-layers in the Breeder's class at Hackney with Salmon Discus, these fish also took the Diploma for the best in the Breeder's classes.

Brian also took a third with a female fighter, yes a female; apparently it was a monster I

-10-

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A CAUTIONARY TALE

by P.F.Capon,

Winter is here again. During the autumn we all probably all decided to check our heaters and thermostats lest they let us down in the coldest part of the year,

But I wonder how many of us did actually overhaul our electrical equipment. :

I have just had it brought home to me the hard way how important an annual check is !

I light the tanks in my shed with car bulbs. I have wired the bulbs in series, ten 24 watt 24 volt bulbs in a chain, one bulb to every 24 inch tank. I find that if the bulbs are run from dusk to 11 pm the plants make sufficient growth. This means that in mid-summer the lights are only on for an hour or so and in mid-winter for 7 or 8 hours. So Perhaps I should mention that my shed has a solid roof and only has windows on the south-west side,

I believe that a solid roof is more economical than a double glazed glass one as the little sunlight that we do get does not balance the cost of heat losses that occur even through double glazing in cold weather.

My trouble arose through not checking that I had sufficient spare bulbs. The inevitable happened a bulb blew and not having a spare I had no light over my tanks for a week. The plants did not of course appreciate the gloom. They took several weeks to pull round.

I use the car bulbs because I have found they last many times longer than ordinary bulbs over aquaria. They last so well that I forgot to check the number of spares in hand.

Do not get caught out like me !

Have a spare bulb and if possible a spare heater and thermostat ready in case of emergency. While you are about it, check the state of your wiring. If you get a shock it's your own fault but what of inquisitive snail fingers ?

Keep your wiring out of harm's way and do not have broken plug tops held together with selotape.

Has your heater got beads of moisture inside the tube The chances are that in no time at all the whole tank will be "alive" ! . I have put my hand in a tank with such a faulty heater it is no joke I can assure you!

If your heater is in this condition throw it away I

Check your tanks now before it is too late !

-12-

KILLERS WITH A DIFFERENCE

by D.W.Roberts F.Z.S.

In Siam the national sport is to watch contests between fighting fishes which often ends in the death of one.

A thorough-bred champion will battle for up to six hours with the greatest energy and skill. The lightening speed with which he can dive to seize the advantage must be seen to be appreciated. Only the male fish will fight and then only with another male of his own kind. He scorns to attack other species as not being worthy opponents.

It is quite safe, therefore, to keep him in a community tank.

Strangely enough, in the community tank he is inclined to be lazy and sulky, and will show his glorious colours less often than you would like.

Then we have a fish that can shoot I

The Archer fish found in the East Indies swims close to the surface of the water, pushes his lips into the air and spits water pellets to the amazing distance of ten feet.

He fires them rapidly, one after another until the insect that he is aiming at is knocked down.

He seldom misses because there are millions of insects in that part of the world and he is always taking "pot-shots" .

...

He is very strong and can live equally well in fresh or salt water. He normally inhabits the mouths of rivers where the water is brackish.

FOR SALE ?

A certain London pet shop recently displayed an empty aquarium in it's window. The aquarium carried this notice :- "SOLD-FISH" .

TILAPIA AND CHIPS

by P.F. Capon.

Several European firms have contacted, the Tanzanian government about the possibilities of sending frozen Tilapia fillets to Europe»

"Two pieces of Tilapia and a bob's worth of chips"

ALGAE FOR WATER PURIFICATION

by P.F.Capon.

Phosphorus is present in large quantities in many detergents. This phosphorus finds its way into our rivers and causes a large increase in the amount of algae.

This algae can spoil the taste of drinking water, and quantities of decaying algae can become a problem at sports and holiday centres.

Decaying algae has an unpleasant smell and attracts hordes of flies.

A suggestion to combat this menace is to create more ponds and reservoirs where the algae could grow and be harvested so reducing the phosphorus content of the water. Thereby the water entering the rivers would not contain so much algae nutrient and the rivers would be cleaner,

MURDER MOST FOUL.

by P.F.Capon.

Recently a pair of Opaline Gouramis bred in one of my community tanks. Being a "highly observant" aquarist I did not know that the spawning had taken place until the fry were free swimming.

I wondered why the other fish in the tank did not rush for food. When I finally had a good look in the tank I found a horde of opaline fry, a battered female opaline, four dead zebras, and two dead Australian Rainbows.

A male Opaline when, guarding a brood will seek out and kill any fish that threatens his brood.

-14-

THAT LETTER

The anonymous letter that we published, in the last issue of the Journal has stirred up the club as the writer hoped. Steve Norris has offered to look after new uember introduce then to the committee, tell then all about our activities, and generally make them feel more at home.

Good for you Steve !

SOME IDEAS ON A BEST FISHKEEPER OF THE YEAR TROPHY

by P.F. Capon.

The anonymous letter in our last issue raised the issue of a trophy for Fish-keeper of the year. This trophy was talked over at the A.G.M. but dropped as being too difficult to administer.

I think the trophy a good idea all the same. Let us consider the items for which points could be awarded.

Attendance The difficulty here appears to be keeping the record. Surely all Member could sign themselves present in a book. I suggest five points per meeting.

Table Shows - five points per entry, possibly a maximum number of entries would have to be set at say three per class. Placings- ten points for the gaining of each card, up to maximum of forty points per member,

Inter-club table shows attendance ten points, entries ten points per entry, placings - first four points, second three points, third two points, fourth one point.

Magazine contribution (Editor excluded) – scale often to Twenty points per article, at editors discretion, depending on content and interest.

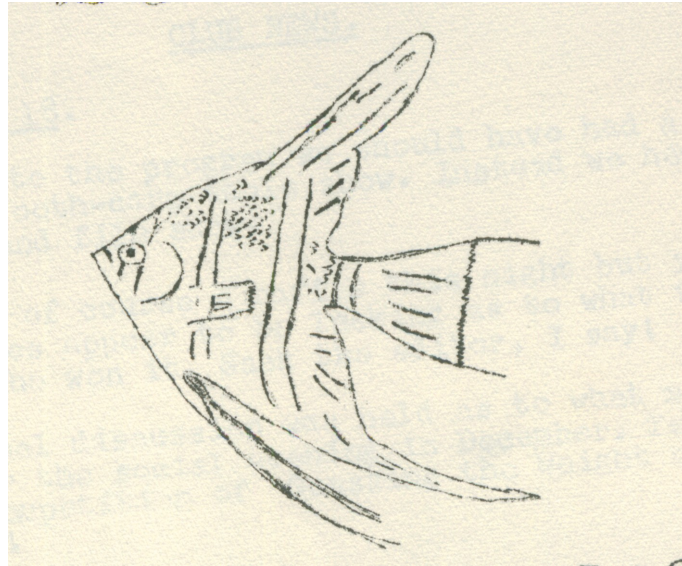
Annual Show (there should be one this year) , five points per entry no limit in entries unless dictated by show secretary because of limited space. placings to be worth first four points etc. Helping to erect , take down etc twenty points. Stewards fifty points per half day or pro rata.

Trips socials etc no points unless members think otherwise,

Tea-making. very important this, five points per night.

-15-

stan's



aquarium

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Talks given by non-committee members - 25 points per talk, a certain committee member will kill me for that one !

I think this system could be made to work, and it has the advantage that committee members and experienced aquarists are given a handicap against the novices.

CLUB NEWS.

Meeting October 18

According to the program we should have had a visiting speaker and a Tooth-carp table show. Instead we had a holiday slide and film show.

There was of course a raffle this night but your reporters notes appear to be lacking as to what the prize was or who won it. Sack the editor, I say !

An informal discussion was held as to what members would like for the social evening in December. Ted Thompson suggested a competition of "Guessing the Weight of the dead haddock"!

Meeting November 1st

Marine night ! We were entertained with a slide show from ~Michaels collection and a talk given by our President and Stan Halsey. Both had tried Marines in their shops with varying success.

Stan kept these beautiful fishes two years ago, he did not use ozone. He believed that bitumen paint finally caused their death. (Bitumen as such is completely harmless fish deaths attributed to it are due to other components in the paint or glazing compounds, Ed).

He was of the opinion that marines needed a varied diet just as ordinary tropicals do, and that many failures could be traced to monotonous diets.

Stan had some Scorpion fishes that ate seventy guppies a week when he first acquired them, graduating to two or three swordtails a day as they grew. The Scorpions grew two inches whilst in Stan's care. He finally lost them and believes that the temperature of 72 F that he kept them at was too low; another time he intends to try 78°F and give them a more varied diet.

John told of his efforts to keep a marine tank, and of the loss of one lot of fish apparently through using an ozonizer continuously to feed an air stone rather than in conjunction with a "reactor" unit for only a few hours a day.

MINI-AQUARIUM TABLE SHOW,

- 1...E.Thompson.
- 2...P.F.Capon.
- 3....J.Baron.
- 4-...S.Norris.

this show was a great success?, the only rules being that two or more fish had to be included in each entry , this was to stop members putting in just one exhibition specimen.

J.Baron and R.D.Orford went to the trouble of making cover's containing lights run by torch batteries. Tedi Thompson added humourous labels for instance;- "Mid-summer at the South Pole" - two Penguins see a Bumble Bee. For the uninitiated this jar contained two penguin fishes and a Bumble Bee goby.

Meeting November 15th

The A.G.M. for officers for 196? see page two For the first time for years we had more offers to serve on the committee than places were available. Members will no doubt wish join me in thanking Mr Roberts for his offer and if I might add something else, I should like to thank Mr Roberts publicly for his support of the Journal.

The Journal lost six pounds odd last year, our treasurer Dave Cheswright reported. It should be pointed out that the payment for advertisements in the Journal does not appear on the balance sheet due to the method of payment, so that the loss on the magazine is not as large as would first appear.

The raffle of a quartet of *Nothobranchius guentheri* was won by Steve Norris.

TABLE SHOWS.

Best Fish of the Year.

- 1...A.J.Mason..... Flying Fox.....86.points.
- 2...B.Dunn.....Cherry barb.....85.points.
- 3...C.Ward..... Scissortail.....82 points.
- 4-...V.Pickett..... St&licza barb...81 points.

BREEDERS TABLE SHOWS

Livebearers

1...B.Dunn.....Guppies, 1/7/66.....81 points

2...D.Cheswright..Platys, 23/3/66....78 points

Egglayers

1... B. Dunn.....rosaceus...5/3/66.....88 points

2... B. Dunn.....guntheri....13/9/66.....85 points

3... E. Thompson.....rosy barbs..march.....84 .points

4... P.F. Capon.....ticto barbs..21/1/66...80 points

=====

Meet ing December 6.

We vere supposed to have a guest speaker fron the Essex River Board but they cried off apparently nobody employed knows anything about fish or water. An attempt was made to get a speaker from the Water Board but they could not oblige either,

The table show for Tooth-carps was cancelled through lack of entries.

The raffle of a pair of black mollies was won by John Cooper

Meeting December 20th

The normal neeting did not take place at the Liberal Hall instead a number of members met at an hostelry in Raleigh. Your editor was in Southend, no he was not at the Liberal Hall,

=====

CUP WINNERS

Southdhurch Cup....Highest points table shows.....B. Dunn

Brookes Shield -.....Mini tank.....E. Thompson

Brookes Shield II.....2nd Mini tank.....P.F. Capon

Barnes-Oake Cup....Breeders Egglayers.....B. Dunn

Coronation Cup.....Breeders Livebearers.....B. Dunn

Jones CupBest fish of the year.....A.J. Mason

Duboisson Cup.....best Black Widow.....P.F. Capon
Giles Cup.....3rd Mini tank.....J. Baron
Saunders Cup.....to be awarded to hard luck table show

-19-

Meeting 3rd January 1967.

This evening there was an auction, it was not very well supported. Mention should be made of John Barons spending of 17/- thank you Johni

If members check in their program card they will see that this meeting was listed as action I can assure members that this was a misprint

The auction of two Ranirezis was won by Ton King,

COMING EVENTS

January 17th Danio, Rasbora, white cloud table show. Talk on same
February 7th Talk on aquarium electrics by Vic Pickett
February 21st Hard luck table show open to all members not having attained a first prize in a table show in 1966 Talk on fish faults.
March 7th Talk and slide show on building a fish house by Dave Cheswright
March 21st Cichlids talk and slide show
April 4th Cichlid table show:- Bring And Buy
April 18th Livebearer table show and talk.

INTER-CLUB MEETINGS

THURROCK BARBS, PLATYS, TOOTH-CARPS, FIGHTERS.
to be held on the 22nd of May 1967.

SOUTHEND ; GUPPIES, A.O ,V./DANIOS RASBORAS WHITE CLOUDS /LABYRINTHS
OTHER THAN FIGHTERS.
to be held on July the 4th 1967

BASILDON to be arranged,

Put these dates in your diary there is a trophy for the club with the highest points over the year, S.L.A.D.A.S must win it; we have been third too often I

A NEW MEETING PLACE

NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING TO CHANGE OUR MEETING PLACE . A FINAL

DECISION HAS NOT YET TAKEN PLACE BUT MEMBERS WILL BE KEPT POSTED OF PROGRESS BOTH AT THE REGULAR MEETINGS, AND THROUGH THE JOURNAL. THE AQUATIC PRESS WILL ALSO BE INFORMED.

-2-

The Society meets at 8.00 pm on the first and third Tuesday in each month, at the new meeting hall ;-

ST ANDREWS HALL,
ELECTRIC AVENUE \$
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA,
ESSEX.

CONTENTS

SUBJECT	AUTHOR	PAGE
OFFICERS FOR 1967.....		3
NOTICES.....		3
EDITORIAL.....		5
A PRAYER.....	M.A.ORFORD	6
DOES A WHITE WORM MISS IT'S BROTHER (reprint)	M.C.MASH	6
MARINE LIFE DOOMED ?.....	P.F.CAPON	7
THE MALE GIVES BIRTH.....	D.ROBERTS F.Z.S	8
COMPETITION.....		9
THE STRANGER.....	H.WAIN-SCOTT ... (reprint)	10
HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR FISH.....	D.ROBERTS	12
THE EXCHANGE REVIEWS.....	P.P.CAPON	16
CLUB NEWS.....		17
INTER-CLUB SHOWS.....		19
COMING EVENTS.....		20
OUR NEW MEETING PLACE		20

TABLE SHOWS, THE RESULTS TO DATE..	21
THE SAUNDERS CUP.....	21
S.L.A.D.A.S. MART	21

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NOTICES.

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MEMBERS. OUR LIBRARIAN HAS EXCHANGE MAGAZINES FROM OTHER CLUBS, THESE ARE WELL WORTH READING.

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-5-

EDITORIAL

S.L.A.D.A.S. JOURNAL WAS FOUNDED WITH THE AUGUST 1948 ISSUE THIS AUGUST WE WILL BE NINETEEN

Admittedly the run has not been continuous, as far as I can see from my researches there was a break of several years from 1953 until Howard Preston helped to start it up again. Originally the JOURNAL was a monthly but today we are only able to publish quarterly through shortage of material.

We even have difficulty in getting enough material for our quarterly issues. In the old days the Editor got far more assistance than today.

I have heard it said at meetings that the JOURNAL should be a monthly - a jolly good idea but where is the material? We could of course carry a lot of reprint material but the JOURNAL is S.L.A.D.A.S.'s and surely should carry predominantly S.L.A.D.A.S. articles with only the outstanding articles from other clubs.

Let's keep the S.L.A.D.A.S. JOURNAL going for another NINETEEN YEARS.

NEXT YEAR S.L.A.D.A.S. will be THIRTY should not we celebrate this outstanding achievement in some special AQUATIC manner. Let's make the aquatic world sit up and take notice. Let's do something spectacular!

ANY IDEAS !!!

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we have to report the passing of a friend and fellow aquarist - W.Hoare. Mr Hoare was an enthusiastic aquarist and during the 50's held the post of Vice President of S.L.A.D.A.S..

Our Secretary has already conveyed the clubs condolences to Mrs Hoare

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-6-

A PRAYER

by M.A.Orford.

While sitting by ny tank one day
I thought I heard my fishes pray;-
"Lord keep us safe, here in the drink
And keep us topped up to the brink?
Let daphnia flow like heavenly manna
(You know it only costs a tanner).
It isn't nuch we ask or need,
A bit of rock,a clump of weed,
Some coloured stones upon the bottom
Don` t worry if you haven't got'em
The rest we ask is very simple
Just keep us free fron itch and pimple"
At this point I stretched and stirred
Did I drean what I thought I heard?

DOES A WHITE WORM MISS IT'S BROTHER ?

by M.C.Mash
reprint S.L.A.D.A.S. Journal, August 1952.

I wanderedd o'er the meadow sweet
With puckered brow and halting feet.
The question is Iloft repeat -
"Does a white worm miss it's brother?"

The night before with tweezers clenched
A white worm from it's lair I wrenched.
Oh ! pondering thought that was not quenched;
"Does a white worn uiss it's brother?"

The family life I had destroyed;
It`s parents must have been annoyed.
Poor Enchytrae - the Barb enjoyed-
"Does a white worn niss It's brother?"

So in this murky world of strife,
Consider this- you or your wife -
When contenplating taking life;
"Does a white worn niss it's brother?"

MARINE LIFE DOOMED ?

by P.F.Capon,

By now we are all probably sick and tired: of hearing about the Torrey Canyon. Well, I am afraid that I am going to add my bit to the rearms that have appeared in the national press.

The oil slicks floating on the surface of the sea have obvious effects on the "birds" but the effects on the marine life have been given very little publicity. The oil can effect both fishes and other life forms by acting as a barrier to normal gaseous interchange with obvious results. In addition the layer of oil acts as an efficient light barrier leading to the death of the planktonic algae which forms the first link in the food chain of the oceans.

The authorities together with the British Petroleum Company have been spraying the oil with the surfactant (detergent) B.P. 1002, claim that the surfactant "can not be of any possible danger to marine life, but the majority of surfactants are toxic to life in even small concentrations, indeed, many surfactants are used as algicides, fungicides and bactericides, it would be strange if the surfactant best suited for emulsifying oil in sea water had the added extra of being "absolutely harmless."

The oil that has been dispersed in the water by means of B-P .1002 exists as microscopically small droplets. Emulsification is really, in this case, only sweeping the dirt under the carpet! A great deal of the lower forms of marine life including the animal plankton which the fishes feed upon get their food by filtering the water. What happens to these forms of life when only a few droplets of oil clog their digestive systems ?

Perhaps when this sad affair is over big business and the government will between then attempt to stop such an event ever happening again. Man has polluted the fresh waters making them useless now he appears to think it is time he started on the sea the sea that could save the world from wholesale starvation !

The Torrey Canyon should have been set on fire in the beginning, dithering by a "so called" scientific minded government has endangered our heritage of marine life, in addition to causing economic hardship in many homes in the South-West and possibly the whole maritime South Coast.

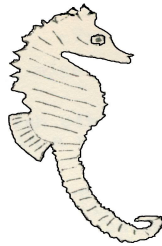
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THE MALE GIVES BIRTH

by D.W.Roberts F.Z.S.



Mother nature outdone herself when she assembled the Sea-Horse. This strange creature has the arching neck and head of a stallion., the swelling chest of a pouter-pigeon, the grasping tail of a monkey, and the colour-changing power of a chameleon.

It has eyes that pivot independently, so that while one orb scans the surface the other can be directed under-water.

Who could fail to fall in love with the Sea-Horse?

I watched an undersea playground at a large aquarium abroad and was entranced. Some specimens locked tails and played an under-water game of tug-of-war, One particularly acrobatic little stead coiled his prehensile tail around a sea-branch and slowly revolved in an incredible number of complex somersaults.

To top his fantastic make-up, the male Sea-Horse is equipped with a kangaroo-style pouch from which the little ones are born,

There are more than fourty species of sea-horse, ranging in length from one inch to two feet, and they inhabit the waters of almost every warm sea throughout the world.

The Sea-Horse is a master of camourflage.

Whilst most are dark grey or bronze/black, those in the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean often wear waist-coats splatted with pink, yellow, blue, or white.

At the approach of danger, a resplendant tropical Sea-Horse can turn to dusky brown and impersonate the sourrounding rocks.

Even a sharp observer might mistake him for a fragment of sea-weed.

The sea-horse is a fish without scales. From top to tail his body is sheathed in a tough, parchment-like cuirass of boney plates.

He swims standing up, propelling himself in a stately manner by fluttering a tiny, yellow fringed, fan-like fin on his back. He moves forward or backward, up or down, by manipulating this fin so speedily that it is almost invisible.

The worse thing that can happen to a sea-horse is to get a puncture, for his bouyancy is stabilised by a bladder. If a single bubble of gas escapes, his specific gravity is disturbed and he sinks helplessly to the bottom. There he must remain until he is able to manufacture enough gas to fill up his "tank"..

The courtship of the sea-horse is a fantastic performance. In an elaborate 24 to 48 hour wooing dance to the accompaniment of tiny, drum-like mating signals, the bride and groom swim in delicate circles around each other, the female pursuing the male.

At the height of the dance the two creatures meet in a trembling nuptial embrace. At that moment the bride transfers one or several eggs to her husbands brood pouch.

She meets him in mid-water again and again until she has given him 250 to 300 brick red eggs, each one fertilized at the moment of transfer.

Her marital duties over, she swims awry free from care !

For approximately 45 days "papa" tends the nestlings in his steadily swelling incubator chamber. At the end of this period a single little sea-horse prances out, then another and another. In some species the fry are no bigger than a comma. This process continues until hundreds of nimble little sea-colts have emerged. Each of the youngsters is an exact replica of its parents, except that each one is transparent; you can see its tiny heart beating. Pigmentation appears later.

COMPETITION

Turin police have arrested Giuseppe Fariano, a fishmonger, charging him with poisoning 250 tons of trout in a competitors pond.

What an idea for winning all the table shows !!!

-10-

THE STRANGER. .

by Helen Wainscott

reprint from Aquanutz and the Splash.

The senior citizen, hat in hand, quietly entered the meeting hall. He was just an ordinary little man – typical of the older generation found in your city and mine. He could have been almost anyone's father or grandfather.

This man enjoyed good health, had small savings, a monthly pension, tiny apartment in a respectable neighbourhood --- and his dignity. So, in a way, he was a wealthy man, But he was also a lonely man. Time had robbed him of his wife and distance had separated him from his children. He met regularly once a week with the "boys" for a pinochle game, enjoyed the luxury of a television set and carried a library card- These things, so minor to most of us, were the major highlight of his conservative way of life.

Neighbours advised the old gentleman to interest himself in a hobby, something that would occupy his time and serve as a means of relaxation. He really wasn't a nuisance, but he did have the habit of dropping in on them at the most inopportune times. One suggested keeping tropical fish as a hobby. The old gentleman was very gullible. He thanked the folks for their kind consideration and thoughtfulness. After giving the tropical fish idea a lot of thought, the aging man made a trip to the nearest pet shop for a consultation.

The dealer was approached at the wrong time. He was busy unpacking a new shipment of stock when the elderly person made his appearance. Instinct warned the merchant that the conversation, if not nipped in the bud, could continue for hours. Also he surmised that if purchases were to be made; they would be as limited as possible.

Easing his own conscience and without donating a single moment of his precious time, the dealer did the next best thing. He recommended a visit to the local aquarium society. This organisation, he advised the visitor, was made up of individuals who were dedicated to the expansion of the hobby and were always on the alert for recruits. Any questions would be answered honestly and any information he desired would be given whole-heartedly. Besides, the club would be an ideal place to strike up acquaintances with persons who shared the same interests

Impatiently, the elderly man awaited the next scheduled meeting of the aquarium society. At last the great evening arrived ! He was to attend the meeting uninvited and unsponsored. After all, weren't guests always welcome? Child-like in his eager anticipation, he boarded a bus that would deliver him to his destination.

Our senior citizen was also a timid nan. As he stepped into the hall, his first glance enveloped what must be the membership table. Here he would be asked to sign his name and would be welcomed into the fold. Quietly he stood by, waiting for just one smile or a bit of friendly recognition. The guest book lay unopened at the opposite side of the table. A group of women; congregated around the table, were indulged in deep conversation. One of the group gave the visitor a wilting glance, turned her back to him, lowered her voice and continued her juicy bit of gossip- Blushing in embarrassment, the newcomer ventured into the hall. He removed his coat and folded it neatly over his arm. Still no sign of a welcoming gesture. Nervously he found his way to the last row of seats. He fumbled with his coat, realizing that there must be a place to hang it. He finally glanced across the room and noticed a neat line of coats hung along the outer wall. Lmaybe if he passed directly in front of the obvious cliques scattered about the hall, someone would stop him and engage him in a bit of friendly talk.

The stranger rose to his feet and tried to appear nonchalant as he slowly walked across the length of the hall. He carefully placed his hat on the rack, then hung up his coat. Hoping he had attracted some attention, he squared his shoulders, straightened his tie and marched back to the last row of seats.

He was confident that his appearance was not against him. His suit was neatly pressed and his shoes sported a . fresh shine. Ada, his departed wife, had often complimented him on his debonair appearance as well as his courteous manners.

Silently he sat through the long business meeting.

There was no introduction of guests. The fish discussion came next. Inwardly, the elderly man yearned to shout out that he longed to join the ranks of the hobbyists; secretly he ached to put questions before the panel. His timidity and thr cool reception held him back.

Now it was time for the showing of the film --the highlight of the evening. People began to move thoir

chairs to get a better view. The stranger was jostled this way and that with never an apology directed his way, The film was excellent but for the outsider it held only tarnished memories.

Suddenly the lights were turned on and refreshments began to appear on the long table. This would be the social hour. Someone hollered: "Come and get it" The stampede was on. The thought of a steaming cup of coffee tempted. The man, but the idea of partaking of refreshments alone, surrounded by a sea of strange faces, far over-ruled the initial desire.

The elderly man rose to his feet, donned his apparel and left as quietly as he had come — the unacknowledged guest. Just a mere tap on the shoulder and a friendly smile would have held him back. Bitter disappointment engulfed him as he left the building. Was his age against him, or was it merely that people were calloused and indifferent? He would never know. Suddenly he felt older than his years. Maybe he was just too sensitive a man.

Sometime later members leaving the meeting noticed a forlorn looking little man standing under a street light waiting for a bus. One member casually remarked that the stooped figure resembled the old gent who had attended the meeting. That was the only recognition that the guest would ever receive.

The visitor was mentioned at the following board meeting, No one could establish his identity because no one had lent a helping hand.

Could this happen at a meeting of your aquarium society ?

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HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR FISH.

by D.W.Roberts F.Z.S.

As a keen aquarist you have been through the process of purchasing tanks and stocking out with plants. On the arrival of the fish, you have nursed them, fed them, panicked over them, and even lived in apprehension over them.

So, a colour transparency of your fish in full natural colour, projected ten to twenty times life size will look breath-taking and produce gasps of approval from your

audience.

Most cameras are equipped with lenses that enable you to focus on an object four feet away. This is not close enough for fish photography; you need an extra attachment to your lens that will halve this distance,

These attachments known as close-up lenses are available in a wide range of working distances.

Fortunately photography is a scientific process and, therefore, predictable. A good aquarist can tell you how to raise fish but he cannot give you green-fingers. (shouldn't that be fishy fingers ? ed)

For successful photography you do not need any mysticism, just intelligence.

Get out your family camera and examine it. You will find that it either has a fixed focus lens with an operating range of from six feet to the horizon, or a focussing lens that enables it to work about three feet from your tank.. Whichever type it is you will need a close-up attachment.

There are three types of close-up lens that you can buy. Number one enables you to photograph fish -which are from three feet to one foot eight inches from the camera; a number two supplementary close-up lens fitted on your camera enables you to work from one foot eight inches to one foot, and a number three from one foot to nine inches.

With one of those lenses you can photograph any fish and make certain it will fill your picture. When you use a close-up lens you must be sure that the camera is exactly the right distance from your subject.

Put your camera on a tripod or other firm support and adjust the distance by using a tape measure. Hand-held shots are possible if you have a steady hand.

(To be continued)

THE EXCHANGE REVIEWS

By P.F.Capon.

THE SPLASH (Milwaukee) February 1967. The article that stands out in this exchange is "The Stranger" by Helen Wainscott and reprinted from "Aquanutz". Helen's story is well written and unfortunately all too true. We thought it's message applied to all clubs and so have taken the liberty of reprinting it on page 10.

THE INFORMER (Greenwater Aquarists) January 1967. The cover of this magazine is a delight, a pair of stately angels beautifully drawn.. Barbara Evans in "Friend or Foe" writes on Ostracods and their ability to attack fry and eggs. I used to be plagued by these pests myself and although I never saw them eating fry I have observed them consume a whole white worm !

COLORADO AQUARIST January 1967. This magazine is semi-professional, how do they do it? Well for a start they have TWO HUNDRED members

Ella Pitnan contributes an interesting article on breeding Cardinals. There is also a reprint by Gene Lucas from **BETTA BREEDERS NEWSLETTER** on the different varieties of fighters. One article that I suggest you should not miss is "Feeding Problems" a brief description on my part could never do it justice.

FISHY NEWS (Plymouth) February. This is not one of the big magazines but its six pages are packed with information.. Ray Gartrell's "Some Useful Reference Figures" is the sort of information that all aquarists need. This should be reprinted and handed out to all club members

AQUA NEWS (Minnesota) February. "Spawning the Emperor Tetra" by Len Shellenburg, a reprint from Xiphophorus is an interesting detailed account.

Ervin Liepa in "Communications" suggests eliminating Bulletin exchanges. The idea is to establish a central abstracting and reprint centre to which magazines would be sent and reprints obtainable for a small fee.

FISH CULTURIST (Pennsylvania) This club has a V.I.P. As honorary nonber **William Innes** Tho Culturist is the only printed magazine to reach us so far, it carries reprints from "The Aquarium and Waterlife". In "Breeding *Barbus schubert*" by William Lawrence the argumonts as to whether the schuberti is a sport from *Barbus semifasciolatus* or a genuine species (*B.sachsi* or should it be *Puntius sachi*?) Mr Lawrence. believes that in the States at least it is a sport of semifasciolatus, having first hand information from T.J.Schubert for whou the fish was named.

The February issue of the **CULTHRIST** ran into trouble crossing the Atlantic, it arrived stamped **DAMAGED BY SEA-WATER**. Did the ship have a budgerigar fancying captain ? I found the article on Grass Pike (*Esox vermiculatus*) by Robert E. Barry interesting, it appears to be a small version of our native Pike, which oust happens to be the fish chosen as our cover illustration for this issue.

Many other fascinating exchanges have been received but space precluded our reviewing them all, they are ALL interesting ask Steve. Norris to show them to you.

CLUB NEWS

Meeting February 7

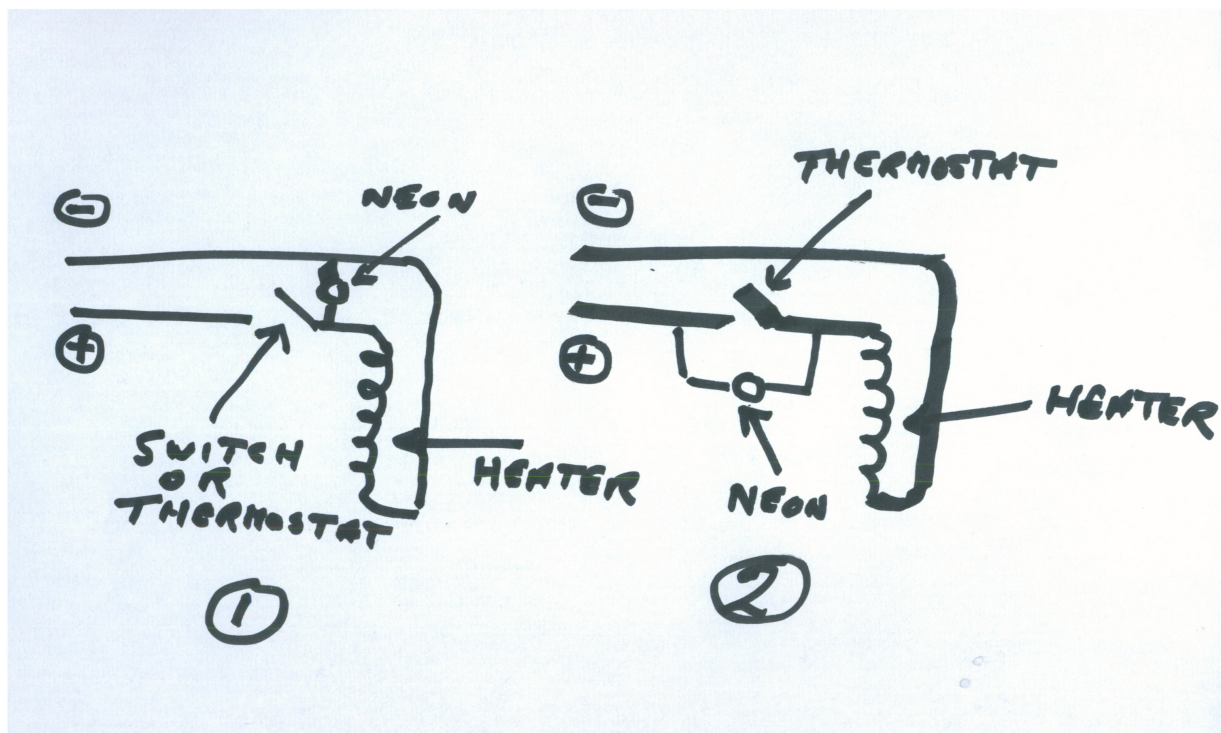
Vic Picket gave us his long awaited talk on aquarium electrics. Vic said that it was a good safe-guard to earth aquaria. A stsainless steel rod immersed in the wa-ter and connected to the norual earth wire from the mains. The earth wire on the British system is GREEN .(imported equipment can have different colours).T'he wire clip that holds external thermostats to the tank is an ideal place to fix the earth lead to.

Dry hands have a resistance of 50,000 ohms but wet hands have a resistance of only 10,000 ohms, enabling a lethal current to flow. One can be killed by a current as low as fifteen thousanth of an amp.

The trouble with most heaters on the market today is that they are supplied with such a short length of wire that any joint is only just clear of the water. This means that a joint has to be nado Vic advised soldering rhe wires not ;just twisting then together, as the latter type

can be pulled apart quite easily. Insulating tape should not be used it is almost impossible to make it vapor proof, rubber splicing tape of the type used by the Post Office is much better.

Vic outlined the following two methods of using neons (no not C.innesi) as indicators for thermostats:-



(1) By this method the neon is only alight when the thermostat is in the on position.

(2) In this case the light shines when the thermostat is switched off, that is to say when the tank is at the right temperature. Vic suggested that (2) is better than (1) for in position (1) the light can be on even though the heater is out of order.

The raffle of a pair of Rummy Nosed Tetras (*Hemigrammus rhodostomus*) was won by Tod Thompson.

Meeting February 21

The main event of the evening was the hard-luck table show for members who had not gained a first prize card in 1966.

- 1...Mr Finch.....Nigger Barb.
- 2...S.Norris..... Green Sword.
- 3...R.Orford.....Lemon Wagtail Platy.

4-..T .King.....Kribensis.

A discussion on fish faults and. showing followed with examples- live but some only just!

.-19-

The raffle of a pair of *Pelmatochromis kribensis* was won by Tom King.

Meet ing March 7

Dave Cheswright entertained us with a slide show on building a fish house. Dave went to a great deal of trouble in preparing this talk .

Included in the series of slides was an enlightening shot of our old friend Jim..

The raffle of a pair of *Aequidens curviceps* was won by a new uenber Lawrence Michell, it is gratifying that a new member should win

Meeting March 21.

This was the evening that we had the cichlid slide show and t.alk given by Michael Willis.

Portions of hair-grass and cabomba and a white-worm culture donated by Michael Willis were auctioned.

The raffle of a trio of veil angels was won by Colin Ward .

INTER-CLUB MEETINGS

THURROCK BARBS, PLATYS, TOOTHCARPS, FIGHTERS.
to be held on the 22nd of May.

SOUTHEND: GUPPISS, A.O.V., DANIOS RASBORAS WHITE CLOUDS ,
LABYRINTHS OTHER THAN FIGHTERS .
to be held on the 4th of July.

BASILDON. SWORDTAILS, CATFISH, MOLLIES, CHARACINS, A.V.
GOLDFISH.

To be held on the 2nd of October.

THERE IS A TROPHY FOR THE CLUB THAT IS OUTRIGHT WINNER
SOUTHEND MUST WIN IT , WE HAVE BEEN THIRD FOR TOO MANY
YEARS, LET`S HAVE A CHANGE AND BE FIRST !!!

Meeting January 17

Before any one attempts to correct me ~ I KNOW JANUARY 17 COMES BEFORE March 21 - the fact is that I have lost my notes on this evening and have left it to last hoping against hope that they would turn up before I got to the end of the Journal.

Dave Cheswright and that Capon fellow gave a talk on Rasboras and Mountain Minnows, and Danios respectively the first subjects were dealt with in an interesting manner but as to the Danios I can't remember a word that was said !

As to the raffle as far as I can remember there were two prizes of W.C.M Minnows and Zebras and I beleive they were sold in a certain Pet Shop next day.

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 18; Livebearers table show (Platys and Guppies, Mollies and Swords. General talk on livebearers.

MAY 2: Film evening (arrangements to be finalised)

MAY 16 Mini-tank table show, and discus talk with slides.

MAY 22: GRAYS 1NIER-CLUB SHOW see page 19.

JUNE 6---- Hand out of fry for fry rearing competition. Quiz., this should be a laugh.

JUNE 20 Talk on Labyrinths and A.O.V. Table show, and Cold Water table show

JULY 4 SOUTHERN'S INTERCLUB SHOW see page 19.

JULY 18 Barb table show and Auction.

OUR NEW MEETING PLACE

First the Liberal lost Jo Grimond then they lost S.L.A.D.A.S. Maybe they will not miss us but our new meeting place appears to meet with the approval of members more and more seem to be turning up, S.L.A.D.A.S. has now returned to Westcliff - we used to meet at the Guides hall

in Westborough Road several years ago

-21-

Meeting January 17 COTINUED

Well I have found my notes (no, I was not using them as an infusoria culture)

TABLE SHOW; DANIOS, RASBORAS, and WHITECLOUDS.

1..	D Cheswright.....	White cloud,,	93 pts
2...	C.Ward.....	Scissor.....	92 pts
3..	D.Cheswrig'ht.	harlequin. ..	80 'pts
4...	E.Thompson.....	Pearl.....	87 pts

TABLE SHOWS

Tho results to date are :-

D.Cheswright,...,	6 points.
Mr Finch.....	4 points.
S.Norris.....	3 points
C.Ward.....	3 points.
R.Orford.....	2 points.
T.King.....	1 point.
E .Thompson.....	1 point.

Do not forget there is a cup the **Southchurch Cup** for the member with the highest score in the year.

SAUNDERS CUP

The Saunders Cup is awarded this time for the winner of the "Hard Luck" table show - Mr Finch.

S.L.A.D.A.S. MART

WANT ADVERTS are inserted **FREE**, a small charge will be made for **FOR SALE ADVERT'S**

WANTED

A second hand piston pump.
contact R.D.Orford.

THE SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY
(founded 1938)
QUARTERLY JOURNAL
Number 16 July 1967

The Society meets at 8.00 pm on the first and third Tuesday in each month, at the NEW meeting hall:-

**ST ANDREWS HALL
ELECTRIC AVENUE
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA
ESSEX,**

CONTENTS

SUBJECT	AUTHOR	PAGE
OFFICERS R/R: 1967.		3
EDITORIAL.....		5
MOLLIES AIN'T MOLLIES ANY MORE,.....	P.F.Capon	5
S.L.A.D.A .S . IS ALMOST THIRTY		5
WELL KNOWN AQUARIST AT HOME.....	M.C -Mash (reprint).....	6
S.L.A.D.A.S. MEMBER EMIGRATES.....	P .F.Capon	7
THE EXCHANGE REVIEWS.....	S .Norrls	8
SPEAKING PERSONALLY,,.....	D.W.Roberts F.Z.S.....	9
A BARB BY ANY OTHER NAME	P .F .Capon.	12
How TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR FISH.....	D .W .Roberts F.Z.S.....	14
CLUB NEWS		16
RESULTS OF INTER--CLUB SHOW AT GRAYS...		18
COMMITTEE MEETINGS		20

EDITORIAL

Did you see Al Kloe's letter to the Aquarist last month? Al is the editor of the new American Magazine "Aquarium Illustrated".

Al reminds readers that Great Britain was the birth-place of the aquarium hobby.

Britain's lead has been lost - now the Germans breed fish to sell to us and the Americans are the discoverers of new varieties and the developers of new strains.

The aquatic hobby is on the up surge again in this country now is the time for us to take the lead in things aquaristic.

As far as I know no one in S.L.A.D.A.S. has the income to finance an expedition to collect new fishes but we all are able to improve our strains and perfect new ones when any sports appear in our broods.

=====

MOLLIES AIN'T MOLLIES ANYMORE

by P.F.Capon-

Mollies have gone the way of the platys. Just as the genus *Platypoecilus* was found to really be the same as *Xiphophorus*, now Doctors Rosen and Bailey writing in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History (Volume 126) put all the mollies in the genus *Poecilia* (pronounced Pee-sill-e-a).

Thus it is now *Poecilia sphenops*, *velifera*, etc.

Other authorities have also included the guppy in the genus *Poecilia*. Thus the guppy's scientific name (not Latin name please !) is now *Poecilia reticulata* and not *Lebistes reticulatus*. It is strange but in the early days the guppy was also called *Poecilia reliculata*, so we are back where we started from.

=====

S.L.A.D.A.S. Is Almost THIRTY

As far as we can make out our club was founded in 1938 if any one can tell us more of the Society's

beginnings we would be interested to hear from you.

-6-

WELL-KNOWN AQUARISTS AT HOME

by M.C.Mash

reprinted SLADAS JOURNAL November 1952

JIM NOCORYMBUS.

It was in the eighties that Jim Nocorymbus left his home in Connecticut with a light heart after a heavy sentence. His relatives wanted nothing to do with a man who had been convicted of crossing swords with small fry to the detriment of the profession, so after obtaining his unnaturalization papers Jim emigrated to Ashby-do-la -Zouch.

.For a whilee he turned his warty hands (i.e. starwort, bladderwort, and liverwort) to inventing. Those well known proprietary brands of hair-grass brilliantine and stoneless gravel were the outcome of his fertile brain and he also had a hand in lady's hip-pockets.

Since the war he has devoted most of his valuable time to decreasin.g the fish population of Spawnlnton near Ashby; but he readily agreed to a meeting with myself for the enlargement of the knowledge of "Foul Water Gazette" readers.

He met me at the rustic railway station, which was half underground, and we spent several hours in the public bar of the "Seven Veils" before proceeding unsteadily to his brooding ditches. The surrounding country was knee deep in mulm which had been strained off from his plastic reservoirs and there was a consequential aroma of baked beans..

One of his most successful efforts, he told me, had been in converting Zebras to Pearls by the simple expedient of sandpapering the dark horizontal bars. Also, he had carried out a scheme for grafting an extra spot onto Blue Gouramis.

His Leeries were an unforgettable sight. They leered as only a Leeri can leer, and I had to turn away to prevent myself being mesmerized. He had trained a squadron of angel to act as a guard of honour to distinguished visitors, and I inspected them with a hypercritical eye; and it is no hyperbole to say that they were super-perfect.

The craze for speed in this age has prompted Jim to experinent with black-line tetras by cutting down their fins, thereby giving them a stream-lined contour. He then

immersed them in paraffin to encourage jet propulsion, hopping in time to get those fish to swim faster than smell, but he was rather concerned about -what would happen when they passed the smell barrier !

I was somewhat intrigued by a tank of mountain minnows that was "tipped to an angle of 45 degrees. This, I ascertained, was to inveigle the fish into imagining that they were in their natural haunts on the side of a mountain. Another tank, that contained mollies, had convex mirrors attached to the sides. This cute idea was to delude the fish into thinking that they were getting a "spread" and so encourage them to slim. Result - no dropsy !

Mr Nocorymbus had married a black headed widow and. They had three buxom daughters whom they had named Faith, Hope and Charity, but whom the rustics had renamed Graceless I, II and III, as there was something fishy about them.

As we drove back to the station in his 1901 "Chitty-bang-bang" I felt that I had missed something in life, but I was mistaken. I did in fact miss one wrist-watch, a fountain pen, a cigarette lighter, a pair of suspenders, and my ration book. But I would have sacrificed much more for such an experience, and feel convinced that "Foul Water" readers would do likewise.

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S.L.A.D.A.S. MEMBER EMIGRATES.

by P.F.Capon.

John Bowman informs me that he has heard from Dave Perrott. Dave is now in Victoria Australia. Dave writes

" guess what I am doing? Manager of a Tropical Pish Shop, can't get av^ay from them can Iand hope you are still keeping fish, I intend to start breeding again once we are settled. I shall have to write to the club soon as I don't think many know we are out here yet. "..... o »».••

Well Dave we all know thanks to John, please do write I am sure all members are interested in the state of the hobby in Aussie-land,

You are on our Journal mailing list from now on!

EXCHANGE, REVIEWS.

by Steve Norris.

“**AQUANUTZ**^ (Davenport A.S.) April '67 .

Ever tried, to watch a pair of Kribensis during courtship? "Hams" by Toni Beynon tells of the struggles of one fishkeeper to become a "Peeping Tom " to no avail. Quite a lot. of useful information in this article about this particular cichlid.

Another article by Donna Edwards "Keep fish as pets? Why ?" tells of giving favourite fish names , like Mack the Knife-fish (sharp!) and of owners petting their fish. I have often stroked a particular male fighter and female opaline gourami myself, to which they responded if not reciprocated.

NORTHEASTERN INDIANA .A.S. March ^7

Are your plants pathetic? Could it be that the lighting, circulation, water temperature etc are all ganging up on you? A reprint from "FISHY TALES" by W. Dewhurst could solve your problems! For more information contact me; your librarian, and I will gladly loan you this bulletin for your perusal at the normal fee.

A new publication "**The ICHTHYOPHILE**" the fish lovers notebook, is a must from now on for me. Plenty of light-hearted stories, but even more important, loads of breeders secrets and advice from the fish-farmers. This booklet is in loose leaf form, is issued monthly, and written by Philip Marraccini, who runs a well known fish farm in Florida,

Join Joe Bialk of the "**SPLASH**" April '67, and discover some of the reasons for losing a batch of fry or eggs, in an article called "The Death Trap".

We all enjoyed the lecture by Mr Dodkins from the East London Club at the Thurrock Inter-club meeting, well to refresh your memory and for further information on water hardness what about that article in "**TROPICAL FISH HOBBYIST**" March 1967 by a certain P.F. Capon

Use the library to benefit yourself and the club- Support the library and you will put us in a position to buy new books for YOUR use.

You may find the answers to your queries at the club by discussion with other members, and quite frequently you can find what you are looking for in the Exchanges.

Your problems are world-wide, and perhaps someone somewhere has come up with the answer - so thuiiib through them.

In addition to the Exchange magazines from other societies all over the world., the library also contains current issues of the “**AQUARIST**”- and “**PETFISH**”

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SPEAKING PERSONALLY

by D.W.Roberts. F.2.S.

Should the true enthusiast be happy to show his best fish? It is known that many aquarists and pondkcepers do not beleive in showing. If it were not for the exhibiting of fancy fish there, would be no standards by which the strains could bo kept true.

The hobbyist who goes it alone, who needs little or no literature to help him,who never allows his fish to be compared with those of others in open conpotition, will get nowhere fast. With no standard of comparison but his own fish; how can he make real progress in the hobby - or in fact, know if and when he is making headway?

Regularly reading a good aquarium magazine is like taking a correspondence course. Joining a good Society is like attending a college where one learns as much from .fellow members as from the "faculty^".

Theaim of all who strive to master any subject is some form of recognition, whether it be in the nature of a certificate, a degree; a prize, or a better job.

Every member should endeavour to have his fish staged at a table-show and to win recognition in open competition.

The PERFECT fish has yet to be seen HERE !

I feel certain the beginner will never regret taking the plunge..

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Speaking Personally, (continued)

In one corner of a rearing pond at a large fish- farm I saw an experimental fish trap. The idea was that, whenever a few hundred fish were needed to top up the stock tanks, food would attract them into the trap, the gate closed, water drained out, and the fish netted with the minimum of fuss and disturbance.

The doubt was whether the fish could be persuaded to come to the trap for a meal when there was plenty of natural food to be had in the pond. Fish are not fools !

In a very short time they put two and two together and elected for the easy life. They now make a rush for the trap as soon as they sense a footfall on the bank, and many just hang around there all the time waiting for the next meal.

In the garden pool fish are equally quick to learn what is expected of them and will queue at a particular spot for food offered at regular intervals.

The owner soon discovers that fish have distinctly individual characters, as I have learned since being in possession of a pool. But it is particularly distressing to lose them needlessly after they have become almost members of the family.

During severe weather it is not the cold but suffocation that does the damage. Ice prevents oxygen being absorbed from the air, and also prevents gases produced by decaying vegetation from escaping.

To my mind a good pool heater is the answer, this will keep a hole open however hard and prolonged the frost. Pool heaters are reasonable in price and the running costs are trifling; so why not study the welfare of those precious fish this winter ?

"When are we going to have tropical marine aquaria?" is a question so often heard these days.

The answer is that you can have them now ! With the advent of plastic aquaria a great source of trouble has gone, as equipment was once a major difficulty. Sea-water remains a problem for all but us coastal hobbyists. It is essential to have a substantial reserve unless you have facilities to make up a synthetic mixture from salts.

Tropical marine fishes are imported by relatively few dealers, they are expensive, are demanding in their feeding, and are always likely to remain costly. Many of the most spectacular types will only eat living foods such as brine shrimps or small fishes. Above all marine plants do not survive under small aquarium conditions and as yet no satisfactory solution has been found to this difficulty.

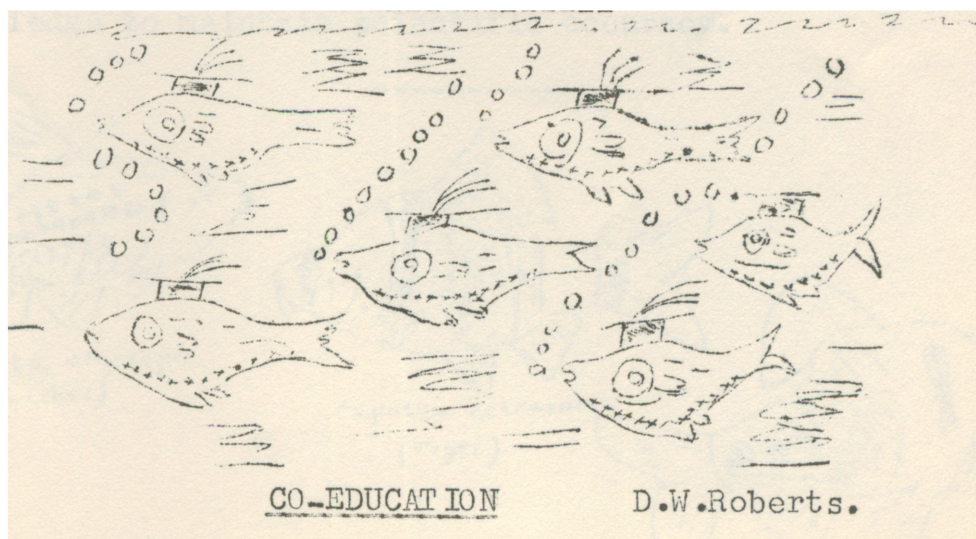
Coldwater marines are definitely worth-while ! The cold water marine tank enables one to enjoy a much wider variety of animal life than is possible in the fresh water aquarium, When one becomes expert enough to manage this type of aquarium it is well worth the trouble. Eggs, plants and other living curiosities are washed up on the beach and the sea's wonders are endless. Those who start a salt water tank and who live by the sea should have immense pleasure in store.

Generally the all glass aquarium is best. As with the fresh water tank the largest one can afford and accommodate is always best. Selection of size should also be according to how much fresh sea water one is going to be able to obtain and by how large a collection of fauna one will be able to secure for it.

The marine tank should be covered with glass set one quarter inch corks. This prevents the escape of crabs and snails etc; keeps out dust and retards evaporation.

The London Zoo has no worry as far as sea water is concerned as its Sea water Hall reservoirs are constantly being replenished with water from the Bay of Biscay,

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-12-

A BARB BY ANY OTHER NAME

by P.F .Capon.

At our recent quiz a number of members expressed doubt when told that the tiger barb was *Capoeta tetrazona*. in most of the books that -we read it is referred to as *Barbus tetrazona*.

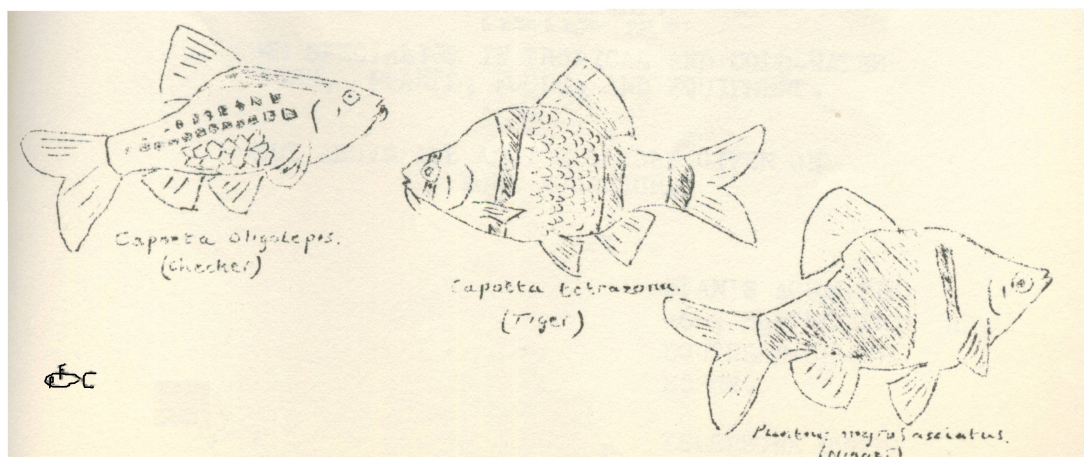
Dr Leonard. P. Shultz, curator of fishes at the United States National Museum has made a detailed study of the group of fishes that -we know as the "barbs." he has come to the conclusion that they should be regrouped into several genera, (the generic name of a fish is its first name).

Briefly, the barbs with no barbels are reclassified as *Puntius*, those with two barbels get the name of *Capoeta*, and the majority, although not all, of the African barbs come under the name of *Barbodes*.

Thus it is *Puntius conchoni* (rosy), *nigrofasciatus* (nigger), ticto etc, *Capoeta oligolepis* (checker), *tetrazona* (tiger), titteya (cherry), etc.

It is troublesome to have to learn new scientific names for old favourites but ichthyologists do not change names just for fun. As they learn more about various groups of fishes they discover that apparently related fishes are not and fishes that had been thought only slightly related are really close relations.

Names are only changed in the light of advancing knowledge to maintain scientific accuracy.



HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR FISH

(continued from the last issue)

by D.W .Roberts. F.Z.S.

The extreme close-up is a field not over exploited by the amateur photographer, possibly from some idea that it is beyond the range of the less expensive scale focusing cameras.

In fact , such difficulties as do exist are common to allround glass focusing cameras; whether a camera is a £100 coupled-range-finder model or a £15 scale focusing.

There are of course, special close-up attachments for the camera in the high price range which do much to over- come these difficulties.

But I would like to show how simple inexpensive close-up lenses can be used with a camera costing £20 or less to get near shots of your fish which have impact. It is not difficult to take photographs of subjects within the range of ten to thirty six inches from the lens , and the results are well worth the little effort involved.

Close-up lenses are made principally in three powers, The first is called a +1 dioptr and has a focal length of 39 inches, it allows one to take a subject 39 inches from the lens when the camera focusing scale is set at infinity, or at 21 inches when the camera is set at four foot. The +2 dioptr lens has a focal length of 19½ inches, and can photograph a subject at that distance when set at infinity and when set at four foot the subject will be in sharp focus at 14 inches.

Then there is the +3 dioptr which will focus down to 12 to 9 inches.

Soft side lighting, with plenty of reflected light in the shadows seems best for close-up treatment. You want permanent records of your fish either in colour or in black and white. All you need is a good camera which need not be expensive.

Generally speaking, reflex cameras are the best as they allow more accurate focusing right up to the moment of exposing. However, one can obtain good photographs with normal 35 millimeter, or other cameras provided that the focusing distance can be estimated accurately with a close-up range finder..

Most cameras focus down to two to three foot with the lens supplied, but as I have said, supplementary lenses or extension tubes are essential either a solid tripod or a pile of books resting on a table will be found invaluable, although hand held shots are possible provided the camera is held perfectly steady.

The most important piece of equipment when photographing fast moving subjects such as fish at close range is a flash-gun. You can use either the normal battery type, or the more expensive electronic flash. Of course, the latter is best as one can get multiple exposures without having to keep changing bulbs. With electronic flash there is no firing delay -which enables the photographer to "stop" even the fastest swimming fishes.

Slow films of the order of 14-17 Din give the best results for a number of reasons, including that they allow greater enlargement of the negative without grain. When using colour film it is essential to use blue flash bulbs if daylight is used to illuminate the tank. Use daylight type reversal film if you are using electronic flash.

Unless you wish to photograph an entire set-up it is best to have a small aquarium specially adapted for photography. The back and sides of this tank can be painted white.

In a small tank it is not possible nor desirable to have any heating apparatus but the cover can be equipped with 40 watt bulbs to keep the temperature up and to supply illumination for focusing.

Make sure that the tank is thoroughly clean if the glass has marks on it you will be surprised how they show up on the finished print. The greatest problem that has to be faced is the avoidance of reflections in the glass surfaces. If the flash-gun is mounted straight on the camera and pointed at right angles to the front surface of the aquarium the picture will be fogged by the blinding flash reflected back into the lens.

This problem may be overcome in several ways. The flash is pointed obliquely at the front of the aquarium and black paper is placed beside the camera to prevent the reflections being thrown back into the lens. Alternatively the flash may be directed from the top of the aquarium. The shutter speed should be set at a thirtyth or an hundredth of a second and the stop at F16-11 or even F22.

Patience and an eye for detail are essential parts of the art of photography. Patience in waiting for the right moment to release the shutter is what makes or mars the final product. Do not be too fussy on the first roll of film, treat it more as an experiment.

Experience will come as you gain confidence and your reflexes sharpen up. Start with the slower swimming fishes and leave the danios and such until later.

Happy Shooting !

CLUB NEWS

Meeting April 4th

Cichlid table show :-

1.. E.Thompson.....	Blue Acara	89 p'ts
2. .T .King.....	Nann' anomala.....	88 pts
3...A.J.Mason.....	Angel.....	86 pts
4. .E. Thompson. ...	Angel.....	85 pts

The number of items brought for the bring and buy was incredible. Thanks are due to the enthusiastic members who gave such support to this venture we raised £8/6/0 for the club funds.

Ted Thompson was in the fore amongst the bidders as he left the hall he was heard to remark, "My wife'll kill me. !!"

The raffle of a pair of Black Angels was won by B.Hamblin.

April 18th

This evening we had a talk on livebearers and a table show for Platys and Guppies and Mollies and 3 words.

The raffle of a pair of Botia was won by B.Passmore.

Platys and Guppies

- 1...D.Plappert.....red wagtail.....73 pts
- 2...D.Cheswright.....black platy72 pts
- 3.. D.Plappert.....fest ival.....71 pts
- 4...D.Cheswright..... red platy.....70 pts

Mollies and Swardtails

- 1..S.Norrisgreen sword.....85 pts
- 2..D.Roberts.....red sword,.....84 pts
- 3..E..Thompson..... red sword.....79 pts
- 4-.J .Cooper.....simpson sword....73 pts

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Meeting May 2nd

This evening we had a film show we saw films entitled "Hunting Whales" , "Crocodile Hunting", and "Deep Sea Adventure"..

The captions to the whale film said that the explosive harpoon did not hurt the victim; well if all that thrashing meant the whale was enjoying himself I would hate to see a whale in real pain.

Thanks are due to Vic Pickett for trusting us with his projector.

Meeting May 16th

Mini-tank table show night certainly was a success we had a really big crowd. Stan Halsey judged the show and what a job he had! The results were:-

- 1.....E .Thompson.
- 2.....E.Thompson.
- 3.....R.Wallins.
- 4,.....D.Plappert.

During the judging we were entertained by Michael with a talk and slide show on setting up a show tank.

The raffle of two half beaks was won by John Bowman.. Stan donated a "Minor" pump for another raffle prize this was won by Ton King ——— not too many bubbles in the tea if you please Tom.

GRAYS INTER-CLUB SHOW MAY 22nd .

Barbs

- 1.. D .Cheswright.... Southend
- 2.. B-.Lupton-Basildon.
- 3....Mr DavisBasildon.
4. ..Mr Edwards.... Southend.

Tooth-carps.

- 1....D .Durrant.....Thurrock.
- 2....Mr Edwards.....Southend
- 3....Mr Nichols.....Thurrock.
- 4-....M.Willis.....Southend.

Platys.

- 1....Mr Hendle.....Thurrock.
- 2....Mr HendleThurrock.
- 3....D .Durrant..... Thurrock.
4. . .Mr Nichols..... Thurrock.

Fighters

- 1...D.Durrant.....Thurrock.
- 2...D.Durrant.....Thurrock.
- 3...D.Durrant.....Thurrock.
- 4...DDurrant.....Thurrock.

The best fish of tho show was Mr. Durrant`s Siamese Fighter. The judge was Mr Jessop of the F.B.A.S.

During the evening we were entertained by Mr Dodkins of the East London Aquarist and Pondkeepers. He gave us a talk on water and how to alter it's chouistry. Being too busy listening your editor did not take notes. Mr Dodkins put over this difficult subject in an easily understandable manner.

After the interval Mr Dodkins asked for questions on any subject frou the floor.

Meeting June 6th

This evening we had the hand out of the fry for the fry rearing competition, a mixture of Nigger barbs and Checker barbs donated by Messrs Cheswright and Capon.

Four of these fry should be brought back on October the third for the judging. Obviously you should try to bring two of each for the best chance but- don't worry if you've only got one species left, you might not be the only one.

Just a minute how can you bring four if you've only got three of each? The editors going off a bit lately is 'nt-he-?

The rest of the evening was taken up with a discussion on the forthcoming inter-club show and a quiz.

The results of the quiz was that Team 1 under John Mason got 17½ points, Team two under Dave Cheswright got 18 points and team 3 under Michael Willis got 16 points.

The raffle of a tank, heater, thermostat and hood (to raise the fry in) was won by Dave Edwards.

Meeting June 20th

Table Show A.O.V.

- 1.....A.J.Mason.....flying fox.....7! pts
2. . .R.Passmore.... Bedotia.....69 pts
- 3 .. .R.Passmore.... Talking cat68 pts
- 4.....R.Passmore.....Knife fish.....67 pts

We were also treated to two talks, one on labyrinths by Dave Cheswright, and one on fighters by John Mason.

The raffle of two Oscars (*Astronotus ocellatus*) also known as narble cichlids was won by that Capon fellow who put them up for auction towards the club funds.

Committee Meetings

At a meeting held on the 15th of June Steve Norris put forward the suggestion that committee meetings should be reported in the JOURNAL. Steve stated that members would appreciate information on the discussions and decisions of the committee.. Reports will appear in the next JOURNAL

THE SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY
(founded 1938)

QUARTERLY JOURNAL
Number 17, October 1967

The Society meets at 8,00 PM on the first and third Tuesday in each month, at the NEW meeting hall ;-

ST ANDREWS HALL
ELECTRIC AVENUE
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA
ESSEX.

CONTENTS

SUBJECT	AUTHOR	PAGE
OFFICERS FOR..1967.....		3
EDITORIAL.....		5
BUILDING A POND - the hard way.....	N.Sellers.....	6
THE EXCHANGE REVIEWS.....	S.Norris.....	8
FEED YOUR CAT.....	D.W.Roberts.....	11
RAMS AND NYASA CICHLIDS - name changes.	P.F.Capon.....	11
DISEASE PREVENTION.....	D.W.Roberts.....	12
BETHNAL GREEN SHOW.....		12
OUR NEXT ISSUE.....		12
CLUB NEWS.....		13
INTER-CLUB SHOW AT SOUTHEND.....		13
TABLE SHOW POINTS.....		missing
COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS.....		missing
S.L.A.D.A.S. IS THIRTY IN 1968..		missing

EDITORIAL

This issue of the JOURNAL is late I am afraid for which I apologise - the truth is I have been guilty of spending too much time in the fish-house !

Next year being our thirtieth we intend to try and bring out more issues of the Journal; -we hope to publish bi-monthly. The only problem in having the magazine come out every other month is that we need more copy, What we really need is fresh ideas - how about some of our newer members telling us of how they started in this wonderful hobby of ours. In the tea break, everybody seems to have plenty to talk about but very few of you seem to want to write it down, the normal answer to my plea for an article is "not enough time".

If each of our members were to write just one small piece say half a page I would not know what to do with it all.

GO ON SHOCK ME !

Our meeting on the 21 st of November is our Annual General Meeting - the most important meeting of the year, This meeting decides whether or not the club is to be a success next year. It is your chance to say how the club should be run.

ALL the committee posts come up for re-election - you are quite at liberty to chuck us all out on our necks if you wish.

Should members so wish I'll be quite willing to hand over the editorial chair to any one the club members may like to nominate, for the benefit of any one who might wish to take on the job I would be willing to publish the next issue before handing over, since I have already taken notes for that issue.

John Mason informs me that he does not intend to stand for the post of PRESIDENT, John has held the post for a number of years and feels that he should hand over to someone else,

Now, members put your thinking caps on who do YOU want as your President for 1968?

Whilst we are on the subject of the election of S.L.A.D.A.S committee members I would like to say that you should not be afraid to attend this meeting in case you might find yourself with a job -no S.L.A.D.A.S. member.-has a post. Forced on him. If you are put up for a post that you do not wish to take we will respect your wishes.

Please do attend the A.G.M. it is YOUR chance to say how you want YOUR CLUB run. If you do not attend you can have no reason to complain about the way the club is run.

BUILDING A POND -THE HARD WAY !

by N. Sellers,

Some years ago shortly after moving into what was then our "new home" we thought of planning the wilderness that the Estate Agents had. called a "mature garden", to incorporate a pond. In those days to have a pond was to be "with it" precisely as the people with a swimming pool, today are termed the "in crowd".

In those far off days fibreglass ponds were unheard of and the only method of producing lasting results was concrete with or without steel mesh reinforcing, depending on the size of the pool.

The design I eventually selected was featured in a little handbook which I obtained from the local pet shop. The pond was rectangular and measured six foot by four foot by three foot deep, these being external measurements. The concrete was four inches thick throughout this being the minimum to prevent cracking due to expansion of the pond and surrounding earth under varying weather conditions. The inside of the pond consisted of a centre rectangular well three foot three inches by one foot three inches surrounded by a shallow shelf with a retaining wall as support for marginal plants.

The top of the pond was level with the surrounding lawn. Unfortunately this led to lawn mowings and leaves getting into the water and leading to fouling. As a remedy I bricked up round the pond finishing off with a cement lintel. This kept out the leaves and lawn cuttings but so cut out the light to the pond that apart from a centrally placed lily all the plants began to die back.

Another drawback was the inability to view the pond from a distance, the bricking up caused a visual obstruction. However the size and rectangular shape did have the advantage that one could easily cover it with a wire netting screen to keep children and cats out. In winter a further covering of matting reduced ice formation to a minimum.

As regards the actual construction of the pond the first major task was the removal of soil (or rather heavy clay) to the external measurements of the pond and disposing of it in one way or another. A rockery mound is one way of disposing of the soil but I prefer to go in for one job at a time. After trimming up the vertical walls and the base as level as possible to act as the outer shuttering, I made the internal shuttering in the form of three bottomless boxes - one for the outer walls and two for the inner well and shelf wall.

It did occur to me that I could have sloped the sides to give added protection against frost damage but this would have entailed much extra work the idea was abandoned, As concrete does not readily lend itself to intermittent working it is necessary to have all materials to hand and complete the whole work in one continuous operation. The job is helped along by a continuous supply of tea and a little support from the wife.

I used $\frac{3}{8}$ "all in" ballast and found this gave the necessary smooth finish, the total used being in the region of a cubic yard with the addition of some 6 cwt of cement. The proportions used were 4 buckets of ballast to one of cement. The cement should be thoroughly mixed "dry" before adding water to a very "thick soup" consistency; too wet will result in "separating out" and too thick in a rough porous finish, I used ordinary Portland Cement. If I had known of the porous nature of concrete I would certainly have added a water-proofing powder to the cement before mixing, but this has to be done carefully by weight.

The concrete was left to set for two weeks before removing the shuttering. The pond was then filled with water. To my amazement I found it did not, as the book of instructions stated, have to empty the pond - it did it for me at the rate of three to four inches seepage per day. The leak continued for fourteen days, so I decided to empty the pond and try a sealer. The remedy in vogue at the time was "Water Glass" I used about four tins of this clear viscous fluid in several applications.

On filling the pond again I found the situation virtually unchanged - still three inches of seepage per day. I again emptied the pond and remembering that I had some white water-proof cement paint left over from decorating the house I tried this on the pond.

I left the pond seven days before filling the pond with water - this time the seal proved perfect.

After a further seven days I emptied the pool, planted a lily in a bed of ballast on the floor of the centre well, covered the shelf with a four inch layer of ballast and refilled.

After a further two weeks I planted the shelf with marginals, *Elodia crispa*, *Fontinalis antipyretica* and frogbit.

I obtained eight young tench from a neighbour he had them in the family bath as his pond which was little more than a thin smear of concrete on the sides of a shallow depression which rapidly disintegrated. My neighbours were only too glad to let me have the fish as they were anxious to take their weekly dip.

(To be continued in our next issue)

THE EXCHANGE REVIEWS

by S.Norris

An interesting thing to note in the American magazines is the enthusiasm that everyone seems to have for the annual shows. The articles are numerous and no two people seem to touch on the same subject. Now, we do not have annual shows any more but what about one or two of us writing up our Inter-club shows, at least it would add a page or two to the JOURNAL and save P.F.C, a bit of writing (where he gets all his ideas from I will never know).

The August edition of the **Horsforth A/S** magazine Includes an article on spawning Red-tailed black sharks (*Labeo bicolor*) by Len Merrill. The author naturally gives details of breeding tank size temperature etc, and gives a good account of the courting and spawning.

Aqua News (June) gives a few summertime hints (be prepared next year) details are given for the care and feeding of your fishes during your holidays

The **Fish Culturist** (June) deals with Daphnia and consists of the notes for a lecture delivered to fellow members of the Canberra A/S by John Lee. The article tells you all you want to know about water fleas including four methods of culture for do-it-yourselfer. (A reprint from **Finchat** by permission of the A/S of Victoria Australia and the Canberra A/S.)

In fact these little booklets are very interesting and well worth reading. There are several in the library dealing with such subjects as breeding kribensis, raising brine shrimp etc.

As I hope to be attempting specialization in the guppy field I was intrigued by an article in **Aqua Jewels** (March) by a Mr Workman who even shows a chart he has devised to keep his mind crystal clear as to what he and his guppies are up to. Although at first reading it was all Greek to me, after sitting down and concentrating I was able to fathom his meaning

Another article in the same magazine is "The Fancy Guppy" 1967", I have had this copied out by my own scribe for my - . personnal file. This edition is packed full of guppy news, just the magazine for me at the moment.

"A Star is Born" **Jewels** April) is the story of Ginny the dolphin and her new born daughter at "Ocean World"

Good reading !

The June edition of **Aqua News** has part one of an article on spawning and raising Bettas (fighters), part two is in the August copy, just you lads wait until I get my fish-house going, you'll have to watch it I'll be the Betta and Guppy king if I take all the advice given in Aqua Jewels

There is also an article in this edition on the Head and Tail Light fish, to my mind this is one of the best exchanges we have.

Have you any fish (female of course) with phantom pregnancies? The March **Aireborough and District** Magazine reprints an article from the **Hobbyist** by Con Hohenstein, and the cure is to use that old favourite — no, you read it yourself; a very interesting article. Another reprint this time from the **Monthly Journal** by U.S. Greaves is the aquansts alphabet from A for aquarium to Z for zoology. The one I like is O for overflow (what happens when you are filling a pond or tank and think there is time enough to do something else.)

A thing that we all want to excel at -"Growing Fish To Maximum Size" by Dr F.N.Ghadiaily (**PetFish Monthly** July) tells you how to go about it. There is also an "Aquatip" on keeping tubifex for a period of time. This method or one very similar, was suggested in my household some time ago;

I "poo-pooed" the idea now it seems that I shall have to eat my words or should that be WORMS.

I am off about guppies again. We also have in the library as of now a copy of "**Guppy**" the journal of the worlds guppy breeders, and the "Guppy Breeders Standards Hanbook".

COLORADO AQUARIST (Summer '67) has an article for the newcomers to fishkeeping, "Fishes for the Home Aquarium" by Randy West, seemed very sensible and straightforward to me.

Our copy of the Handbook of Tropical Fishes has been mislaid, would the member who has borrowed it please return it as others wish to read it.

Please do make use of the library but let's have the book back as soon as you have finished with them.

Our library now contains many new books such as Sterba's Aquarium Care both the British magazines - the Aquarist and PetFish Monthly, and all the exchange magazines from all over the world. All these books have been bought with club funds for you enlightenment and entertainment -but please look after them.

FEED YOUR CAT

by D.W.Roberts. F.Z.S.

Many visitors to the London Zoo Aquarium who are unfamiliar with the vast majority of fishes on view, will stop in front of a tank and say, " There's a catfish, he's a scavenger !".

Probably one of the reasons why catfish are seldom bred is that they are regarded as just that "scavengers", Little effort has been made to study or understand them, and they are expected to subsist solely on the leavings of the other more favoured fishes. A catfish, although often called one, is not a vacuum cleaner.

He likes good food just as well as the other fishes do and, like them, will thrive on a good diet. Contrary to popular belief, catfishes will not eat dirt or droppings. For the most part they are forced to subsist on bits of food that the other fishes have overlooked and, occasionally some decaying leaves. A good point to remember is that a catfish scavenges to fill his stomach. The fact that he is cleaning your tank is incidental; when he is full he stops !

Do not depend on him to clean up everything just because he is there.

Some catfishes are equipped with sucker mouths with which they clean algae from plant leaves and smooth surfaces.

Catfishes are ordinarily nocturnal although in the aquarium they become accustomed to being active during the day.

Many an aquarist, who thought he had a lazy catfish has been surprised when switching on the light late at night to find the catfish busily working away.

Rams and Nyasa Cichlids ' name changes.

by P.F.Capon.

Apistogramma ramirezi Myers and Harry has been renamed *Microgeophagus ramirezi*. The literature states that the generic name of *Apistogramma* was applied to this fish by mistake to put matter right a new genus *Microgeophagus* has been suggested.

The Lake Nyasa Cichlid known as *Pseudotropheus tropheops* has been identified as correctly being known as *Haplochromis callipterus* by E. Trewavas.

-12-

DISEASE PREVENTION

by D.W.. Roberts.F.Z.S.

Whatever care you may take in bringing up your fish - they are always liable- to be attacked by pests or diseases. This applies to both tropical and. eoldwater species.

If you can spot an attack as soon as it appears and supply a suitable remedy immediately, little harm will be done. But if pests or diseases are allowed to develop unchecked many of your prize fishes and plants will be ruined or lost.

We still have a lot to learn of many diseases, and even today, when the hobby has advanced very far indeed, fish have a habit of dying off unexpectedly and from no apparent cause. Fortunately, common ailments are known, though treatment is not always successful.

Affected. fish usually exhibit symptoms of ill health before hand, swimming sluggishly or "drooping" at the bottom. They may float aimlessly at the surface of the tank or pool with folded fins or closed dorsal. A sick fish will always segregate itself from the others and refuse food. Once these symptoms are noticed the fish should, be examined.

If attacked by parasites a fish will dash around rubbing itself madly against any object.

As with all livestock, the old saying " prevention is better than cure" hold true.

Good environment counts at all costs. Cleanliness, ample food and correct temperature are the main secrets of avoiding fish diseases..

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BETHNAL GREEN SHOW.

Brian Dunn won the Rosette for the best team in the breeder's classes at the Bethnal Green show with his Blue. Gularis; he also took second place in the barb class with a cherry.

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OUR NEXT ISSUE.

OUR NEXT ISSUE out in January will contain an article- on the LONDON ZOO - read, how many steaks the lions eat, and how much hay the elephants eat. Mow many different kinds of animals are there in the Zoo? How much water is there in the aquarium?

CLUB NEWS

Meeting July 4th :

The second leg of the Inter-club series of table shows Michael Willis entertained us with a slide show and talk on Marines.

GUPPY

1..Mr.Hartlebury.....	Thurrock	79 points
2..D.Cheswright.....	Southend	77 points
3..D.Durrant	Thurrock	76 points
4.,D.Durrant	Thurrock	76 points

LABYRINTHS

1..A.J.Mason	Southend	72 points
2..-B.Young	Basildon	66 points
3..E. Nichol.	Thurrock	62 points
4.P..F.Capon	Southend	60 points

DANIOS, RASBORAS W.C.Minnows

1..Mr Mitchell.....,	Southend	73 points
2..N.Tamken.	Basildon	69 points
3..R.Passmore	Southend	68 points
4..N.Tamken	Basildon	67 points

A.O.V.

1,..E.Young..	Basildon	...82 points
2.,B.Young..	Basildon	...81 points
3..D.Durrant	Thurrock	...77½ points
4. .B.Young.	Basildon	...77 points

The judges were I.Cotgrove and S.Halsey. The judges actually awarded Mr Durrant's two entries as third equal, and John Cooper fourth place. Steve Norris won three out four of the raffle prizes[

This gave the points for this show as :—

BASILDON 15 points. SOUTHEND 14 points. THURROCK 11 points

Our copy of this journal is missing several pages if any one has a copy we would be grateful if we could borrow it to scan the last pages. There are at least 6 or 7 missing pages